Appointment of the present Chief Inspector of Vernacular Schools.

91. **MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara*): Will the Government be pleased to state

(*a*) when the present Chief Inspector of Vernacular Schools was confirmed as such;

(*b*) when his predecessor in office was relieved of his duties;

(*c*) when the present officer assumed charge of the Chief Inspector's duties;

(*d*) whether the present Chief Inspector was allowed to draw the Chief Inspector's pay from the date on which he actually took charge of the Inspector's duties, and, if not, from which date; and

(*e*) the date from which Mr. O. M. Cheriyan was retired from service?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) 24-7-1106.

(*b*) 1-10-1104, afternoon.

(*c*) He was put in independent charge of the duties of the Inspector of Vernacular Schools on 22-10-1104.

(*d*) The answer to the first portion of the question is in the negative. He began to draw the minimum pay of the appointment from the date of his confirmation.

(*e*) 30-11-1104.

Refusal of admission of an Ezhava girl to the Valathungal V. M. School, Palattara.

92. **MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI** (*Quilon*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have sent any order to the Director of Public Instruction regarding caste titles;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that they have advised the refusal of admission to an applicant for admission in a school (i) if the applicant has, in the opinion of the headmaster, assumed the caste title of a community other than that to which he or she belongs with a bad or ulterior motive, or (ii) if, in the opinion of the headmaster, confusion will be caused by a member of one community being allowed to assume the caste title of another community; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that admission to the Valathungal V. M. School, Palattara, Mayyanad, was denied to an Ezhava girl, Devaki Amma, on the ground that "Amma" was affixed to her name?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The answers are in the affirmative.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know the reasons that induced the Government to issue such orders?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The reasons are there in the question itself.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Are those the only reasons?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There are other reasons given by the Director. But Government in their order have given the reasons as found in the question.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know the other reasons given by the Director for refusing admission?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The assumption by one caste of a title pertaining to another caste especially in schools may wound the susceptibilities of and rouse resentment among the people of the caste whose title is thus assumed. It might thus give rise to communal feelings. In many cases the desire to assume such titles does not always proceed from worthy motives. Again the assumption of such names as Pillai, Aiyar, Nayar, etc., might also lead to confusion of identity. These are the reasons.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether Government recognise the right of individuals to name their children as they please?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The only thing is that one caste should not adopt the title of another caste. Because that would be a false pretence.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether the Government would admit a Christian girl by name Ponnamma to a school?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is a hypothetical question.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether the Government will admit a Brahmin or a Nayar who refuses to affix a title?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They may.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether there will be no difficulty of identification of caste then?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is to be decided on the merits of the case.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether the Government will issue necessary orders so that the right of individuals to name their children in any manner they choose will not be interfered with?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no difficulty at present. Because the discretion in the matter of admissions is given to the Headmaster. He will decline admission only to those who adopt caste titles with a bad or ulterior motive.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Who is to judge whether there is a bad or ulterior motive?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Circumstances will show that. For instance a case was reported by the Director to the effect that an Ezhava assumed the name of 'Ananthasubba Iyer' for the purpose of insulting a Brahmin teacher of that name in the school.

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MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : May I know whether the Government think that there was a bad or ulterior motive in the specific instance in the case of Devaki Amma that I mentioned ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : In this case the Headmaster had used his discretion.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : So, may I know whether Government are encouraging the prejudices of people against these caste titles or whether they allow the right of the individuals to have their own names ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The adoption of a person to a caste title to which he does not belong is really bad. It is not merely a question of right of a person. It is possible that these caste titles are adopted from unworthy motives.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : May I know what the Government mean by 'unworthy motives' ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : When a person pretends what he is not that is unworthy. Suppose an Ezhava by name Krishnan calls himself Krishna Pillai, that gives a false idea about himself.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Suppose a Mahomedan calls himself Kadir Pillai, may I know whether it will be thought as proper motive ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) . The word Kadir is a Mahomedan name.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Then may I know whether the Government think that Ponnamma is generally a Hindu name ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I do not know that. I have seen cases in which Christian girls are called Ponnamma. That is not a distinct caste title so far as I know.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : May I know whether it is because Government recognise that there will be a difficulty of identity of caste, as the Director has suggested, that it should not be used ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : May or may not be.

Accidents on the Shertallai-Arur road.

93. **MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Shertallai*) : Are the Government aware of serious cases of collision on account of the extreme narrowness of the Shertallai-Arur road ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The Government are aware of certain cases of collision of motor vehicles on the Shertallai-Arur road, which occurred in 1105 and 1106, but all of them have been reported to be due to rashness in driving.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*) : May I know whether the cases of collision reported are due to rash driving ?

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